

#### Extreme flank wear in the first piston groove



Cause: Lack of lubrication, overfuelling. Dirt or debris in the engine oil or air intake. Defective catalytic converter. **Remedy:** Replace defective parts. Change engine oil and ensure there is adequate lubrication. Clean the intake manifold and change the air filter. Check the functioning of the catalytic converter.

## Fretting on face of ring and initial stages of ring coating peeling away

Cause: Insufficient lubrication, overheating due to high frictional loads.

correct grade of lubricating oil has been used.

### Scratches and surface cracks



lubricating oil.

#### Fretting on piston ring face



**Remedy:** Replace defective parts. Check that lubrication and cooling levels are correct, and that the



and cylinder wall.

#### Ring in first groove broken



**Cause:** Overexpansion of ring when fitting the piston. Faulty fitting of piston or ring into engine block. Excessive pressure or worn piston grooves. **Remedy:** Replace defective parts. Ensure piston and rings are correctly fitted. Use piston ring expander to prevent overstressing of ring during assembly. Check if the piston grooves are to specification.

#### Wear at top dead center (TDC)



**Cause:** Shortage of lubrication. Incorrect choice o piston rings or cylinder liners. Cylinder distortion or inadequate cooling.

**Remedy:** Replace defective parts. Ensure correct selection of parts. Ensure that lubrication and cooling levels are correct. Check if tightening torques and sequences are followed.



### Foreign bodies in engine



Cause: Dirt or debris in engine. Secondary damage due to overheating and seized piston(s). **Remedy:** Replace defective parts, clean engine, change oil, oil filter and air filter.





Cause: Dry start. Lack of lubrication, dirt and debris in

**Remedy:** Replace defective parts. Thoroughly clean the engine, replace engine oil and filter and ensure rings are lubricated prior to initial start-up.

#### Molten areas on piston ring face



Cause: Overheating due to insufficient oil or coolant supply. Remedy: Replace defective parts. Check that lubrication and cooling levels are correct, and that the correct grade or lubricating oil has been used.

**Cause:** Overheating. Piston ring face and cylinder wall not compatible. Excessive pressure between piston ring

**Remedy:** Replace defective parts. Ensure that the piston rings and cylinder walls are compatible. Check if

the piston rings are correct for the application.

#### Foreign bodies in engine, 'rolling traces'



Cause: Dirt or debris in engine. Secondary damage due o overheating and seized piston(s). Remedy: Replace defective parts. Thoroughly clean engine and replace oil and filter.

#### Overheating (thermal overload)

Cause: Overheating, insufficient lubrication, insufficient cooling and high friction levels.

**Remedy:** Replace defective parts. Check that lubrication and cooling levels are correct, and that the

correct grade of lubricating oil has been used.

#### Failure of piston ring



Cause: Ring overexpanded when fitting to piston. Discolouration at ring edge and polishing at fracture face indicate long time in service prior to failure. Remedy: Replace defective parts. Ensure piston and rings are fitted correctly. Use piston ring expanders during assembly to piston.

#### Microwelding on piston ring face



Cause: Poor honing of cylinder wall. Dirt or debris in the lubricating oil.

**Remedy:** Replace defective parts. Thoroughly clean the engine, replace oil and filter. Ensure correct honing pattern is applied to the cylinder wall.

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# TROUBLE TRACER CHART **PISTON RINGS**



